

## VIOLETTE ASSOCIATION

Three and a half months have already passed since the Van Buren Reunion. Those of you who attended, I am sure all agree that it was a huge success. To those of you who were not able to attend, you missed the <u>best</u>. Chairman Elmer Violette and his devoted committee are to be praised to no end. The hours that went into the preparation must have been unreal. However, the fruits of their labors I am sure made it all worth while. We thank you Elmer and your entire committee for a job well done.

To give a report in a nut shell is quite difficult but I will attempt to give you, the people who were not there, a few of the highlights. Needless to say, the highlight of the entire week-end was the dedication of the Memorial to Francois Violette. This was done on Sunday morning with dignitaries from the town in attendance as well as Father St. Onge from the local parish and the adult Folk Choir from the parish. The ceremony began with the singing of "Evangeline" depicting our Acadian Heritage and ended with a medley of Patriotic Songs. It was just beautiful. The Memorial is situated in what is now called "Violette Brook Park". One cannot miss it when on Main St. in Van Buren. A picture of the Memorial is included in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you who contributed to the Memorial. You certainly were extremely generous. The final bill for the installation of the plaque has not been received. Therefore final finances cannot be given at this time. However, I am sure that we have more than enough in donations to cover the entire cost. A report will be given to you at a later date,

One of the other highlights was the Mass which was celebrated at St. Bruno's Church just across the street from the High School where the reunion was held. The Mass was celebrated specifically for us and in memory of Father Violette with a special intention for all our deceased members. Here we shared in a very special way the faith of our ancestors. The Mass was very inspirational and the choir, believe me, was the best you could find anywhere.

Again, Violettes came from literally everywhere to be with us. They came from Edmonton, Alberta, all the way to Moncton, New Brunswick, from the West Coast to the East Coast of the U.S. Also with us were two families from France---one family a descendant of Francois and the other, a descendant of perhaps an ancestor of ours from further back.

It was decided at this reunion to have our next one in three years somewhere in Connecticut. However, this is still not definite as we have not yet found a Chairman. I feel very strongly that it can be

held in Connecticut as we have over 150 members from that State. If a chairman cannot be found within the next two months, we perhaps will have to change the location. Any interested members may write to me at 32 Louise Ave., Methuen, Ma. 01844. Come on Connecticut, don't let us down.

At the reunion we also decided to sponsor a trip to France, to the land of our ancestors. At this time we do not have final details. Several members requested that the trip take place other than during school months. We tried for August but were told that this would be the worst time as all of France is on vacation in August and the prices are at their peak. Also many attractions would be closed at that time. So, we have reverted to September, the exact dates being Thursday evening, Sept. 16 to Monday Sept. 27th. As soon as the itinerary is available, I will send out a Special Newsletter to all our members with all the other details. The trip will first be open to members and their immediate families. Then, on a space available, it will be open to friends of members.

Mr. Claude Meche from France, an interested genealogist was also in attendance at the reunion. He presented the Association with greetings from many dignitaries in France. Mr. Meche will help us to set up our itinerary in France next September.

Congratulations are in order for Judge Elmer Violette #457 of Van Buren, Maine. Elmer recently became Judge of the Supreme Court of Maine. Needless to say, the entire Violette Association is proud of you, Elmer, and wishes you well.

Once again I am sorry to say that we have lost some more of our members. In August, Ledger King #310 of Skowhegan, Maine and Joanna Scribner King #339, also of Skowhegan, (Ledger's daughter-in-law) passed away. In October, Leona Violette Poore #692 of Boothbay Harbor, Maine passed away. Leona was with us at the reunion in Van Buren. Our deepest sympathy to their families.

Congratulations to Esther Violette Morrow #690 and William Morrow #691 of Florida on the birth of their granddaughter, Mandy, to Gerald Turbie #208 and Lois Niederew Turbie #209 of Billerica, Ma. on the recent birth of their son Justin Edmond, and also to Viola Violette Morin #326 of Skowhegan, Maine on the birth of her grandson, Michael. At this time we also send best wishes to Colin Violette #843 and Laura Lofthouse of Hampden Highland, Maine on the occasion of their October marriage. We wish also to say to Edmond Violette #286 and Iren Cloutier Violette #287 of Augusta, Maine, we share in your happiness in the recent graduation of your son, Jeffrey, from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. We now have several doctors in the family.

Get well wishes are probably a little late, however, we do hope that the following people are progressing well after having major surgery: Richard Violette #7 of Lowell, Ma, our Vice-President, Callie Rice Violette #634 of Concord, North Carolina, and Albert Violette #204 of Sepulveda, California.

As usual I will continue to bring you up to date with the membership by including a couple of pages of members in each newsletter. We are now up to 1053 members.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a very happy and holy Holiday Season. We Are One, Fita Violette Lyppe

## MEMORIAL TO FRANCOIS VIOLETTE



Rita Violette Lippe Elmer Violette
President, Violette Assoc. Chairman, Van Euren Reunion

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

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